

Patent Application of Mark Emery and David D. Minor for "Sliding, Portable, Vehicle Mounted Combination Trunk-Workbench with Variable Height Adjustment" continued - page 30

ABSTRACT: A vehicle mounted storage unit, adapted to be mounted to a floor portion of a vehicle having juxtaposed side panels and wheel wells that extend outwardly from each side panel by a first distance, and a vehicle surface a second distance away from the rearmost portion of the wheel wells that is perpendicular to the side panels and comprises the inner surface of a moveable tailgate. The storage unit includes two mounting brackets fixed to the floor portion of the vehicle adjacent to each side panel between the wheel wells and the tailgate. The mounting brackets have a width that is less than the first distance, a length that is less than the second distance, and a height that is less than the height of the side panels. The cabinet has a slide mechanism that allows it to move horizontally over the tailgate to its stops and back into a fully retracted position at the rear stops adjacent to the mounting brackets. The slide mechanism contains a quick release feature that allows the cabinet to be dismounted from the mounting brackets and from the vehicle without the use of tools. The cabinet has a locking mechanism that locks it to the slides and to the mounting brackets, and simultaneously locks the sliding drawers in the cabinet. Additionally, the cabinet contains bilateral gas cylinder mechanisms that raise and lower the cabinet. The gas cylinder mechanisms are firmly attached to the cabinet and to wheel

platforms that have a plurality of lockable caster wheels mounted on their lower surfaces. When the cabinet is in its raised position, it can be rolled around and used as a portable workbench. The cabinet also has an upper surface lid that extends over the sides of the cabinet and provides a workbench surface with measurement and alignment markings. For safety reasons, the mounting brackets have retaining ears and a retractable safety belt with a quick release mechanism. The safety belt is threaded through a ring mechanism firmly attached to the rear of the cabinet.

9 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets